Civil Service Reform.

Lively Debate on the Subject by Trumbull, Mocton, Frelingbuysen, Edmunds and Schurz.

ARTIFICIAL LIMBS.

Sumner Accepts Frelinghaysen's Amendments to the Civil Rights Bill.

The Widow Triumphant in the House.

The Postal and Pension Appropriations.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 18, 1872.

27. CONKLING, (rep.) of N. Y., presented the memorial of the New York Chamber of Commerce setting forth the depression of American shipping interests, and recommending the payment of liberal compensation for mail service performed by American steamships sailing to foreign ports. Referred to the Computer on Part Officers.

WOMAN SUPPRAGE.

TRUMBULL, (rep.) of Ill., from the Committee on the ry, reported adversely upon the part of the commit-the memorial in favor of woman suffrage, signed by sabelia Beecher, Hooker and others, asking to be nder the amended federal constitution women have a right

ment workshops, bill making an appropriation for the erection of a of lights around the Craig Hill Channel in Chesapeaks

was passed.

A. G. Titurman, (dem.) of Ohio, presented the creals of his colleague, Mr. Sherman.

ARTIFICIAL LIMBS FOR THE ARMY AND NAVY.

BLAIR, (dem.) of Mo., from the Committee on Mill-Affairs, reported favorably the bill amendatory of the revolding artifucial limbs for soldiers. The act extends provisions of the act to all officers above the grade of sin.

business.

Mr. Sumner. (rep.) of Masa., announced that he had considered the amendments proposed by Mr. Freinghuysen yesterday and had declice to accept them.

CIVIL SERVICE REPORM.

The Ampesty bill was then laid assite informally, and Mr. CARPENER called in his resolution declaring the civil service.

Section of the short of the control of the short of the s

CONGRESS.

| Consequence | Con

The Virginia contented election case of Me Braxton, was called up, and the report that filed to his seat was adopted. The House then, at two o'clock, adjourned.

CHURCHING OF MR. HEPWORTH.

tional Brother-Endorsement of His Minis-try by Drs. Buddington, Scudder and Mr.

Beecher.

A very interesting service was held in Plymouth church, Brooklyn, last evening. The occasion was the holding of a conference of the represen-tatives of the Congregational churches of New York, Brooklyn and its vicinity, and that which gave it a special interest was the recepfraternity towards the Rev. George H. Hepworth.

The initiation of Mr. Hepworth, after the usual preliminaries, was proceeded with, the Rev. Dr. Suddington presiding. There was a large audience, and Mr. Hepworth stated his views and experience to the congregation, which were substantially the same as those published in the Herald on Monday week.

in the Herald on Monday week.

Dr. Buddington, in a short address, bore testimony to the power of Mr. Hepworth's preaching, as witnessed by nimself when he sat by Mr. Hepworth's side at Steinway Hall on Sunday night last, judging from the immensity and character of the audience he ventured to believe that, under the blessing of God. Mr. Hepworth had a brilliantly useful future before him.

Mr. Henry M. Storrs then proposed the following resolution, which, it will be seen, gives Mr. Hepworth the largest ecclesiastical fluerty and all the freedom that a Christian minister could desire. The resolution was seconded by the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher:—

Resolved, That as a strict of Mr. Henry Ward

TUZ CUSTOM HOUSE COMMITTEE.

What Surveyor Cornell Knows About Bribery, Corruption, Assessments and Political Strategy.

The Difference Between Personal Influence and Official Power-Assessments All Voluntary-Memories of Abuses Under Grinnell-The Steamship Agents Again on the Stand.

Astonishing Revelations of Mr. Jelletson, a Heavy Importer.

He Has Bribed a Number of Custom House Officialspected To-Day.

The Custom House Committee met again yesterday at the Fifth Avenue Hotel. The attendance since the committee have moved up town has been House, and the Custom House officials seem now to

The following letter was read by the Secretary:-The Secretary next read the following

he had had any consultation regarding the ad-S. Grant, a former witness. He further said that he never knew anything about this person Terry, Custom House.

ing lost much of his involces of cigars, from time to time, in the General Order store; it is only within pay from two dollars to three dollars a case for time in the Appraiser's store; he missed as many as cannot always get them out in less than ten or fif-teen days; I have tried often to get an interview with the Collector regarding my difficulties, but have never been able to see him; while in the public extent than might be accounted for by sampling, out since they went to the general order stores we have been in the habit of losing from three hundred to nve hundred in each invoice.

following testimony, after a few preliminary ques-

some trouble in getting in; they were persons of by no means flattering appearance; they then tried to get possession of the platform.

Mr. Connell then entered into an exhaustive description of the origin and progress of the flatton fights inside the lines of the republicans of this city. He threw the onus of biame upon the Tammany proclivities of his opponents. He went on to say in regard to inspectors that none of them are allowed to accept any extra lees, except for night duty, under an arrangement approved by the Secretary of the Treasury; in such cases ten dollars was the fee ahowed. Regular night permits to steamers have been abolished, but special night permits are still

cept any extra lees, except for hight duty, under an arrangement approved by the Secretary of the Treasury; in such cases ten dollars was the fee allowed. Regular night permits to steamers have been abolished, but special night permits are stul in force. Air. Cornell stated that he had discouraged the attendance of Custom House officials at the Convention of 1871, but that, in spite of this, forty or fifty of them had gone.

Q. Did you punish any of them in any way for going against your wishes? A. No, sir; there was no disobedience of orders involved; I merely represented to them that a great press of business made their absence very inconvenient, but as a leave of absence was due to them I had to let them go if they insisted upon it; I do not think any one went who was not entitled to a leave of absence; I only know the republican party; I do not know any divisions in it; I do not think the number of Custom House officials at the 1871 Convention was less than at some previous conventions; for instance, at the Convention of 1864 there were more officials; in 1869 the same was the case; there is a difference, in my opinion, between personal and official influence; I think in 1871 Custom House officials used their personal influence, but not their officials are in the habit of making political visits to their homes; the great majority of our other-hoiders are permanent residents of New York, Brooklyn and Jersey City; I have never made our one political removal, and that was a democrat; in regard to inspectors taking brites I have done my best to discourage it and nave warned all consignees of vessels not to give lees to officers; the trouble is that merchants are too auxious to bribe the officers in orier to induce the officers; to their only its first the tenoval, and that was a democrat; in regard to inspectors taking bribes I have done my best to discourage it and have warned all consignees of vessels not to give lees to officers; the trouble is that merchants are too auxious to bribe the officers in orier to

money," for instance? A. Not that I know of; sometimes officers take books nome and work at night, and they are paid extra for this; that is allowed.

Q. Would not that excuse any kind of bribery?

A. I do not know; the competition between the steamship lines is so keen that they are very anxious to clear their vessels with all the expedition possible; I think the practice of bribery has been decreased since I gave evidence before the last Investigating Committee to the celect that the inspectors had all concessed under oata to having taken bribes from the steamship companies; in cases of inquiry into these matters we do not require absolute proof of guit for punishment, but merely reasonable proof.

Q. How many inspectors have you punished for these malpractices? A. I cannot say without referring to the record.

Q. What is the condition of the weighers' department with respect to the number of persons employed by the government, who are authorized in their discretion to hire as many laborers as they need; I think they have been more restrained in their action in this matter; the number of weighers is the same now as before; I cannot say whether the number of laborers of the pay rolls has been reduced or otherwise; the returns to be furnished to the committee will show that; a weigher named Burns was suspended in 1869, and I considered him guilty, though there was a dispute between him and his assistant as to the responsibility in the matter; he was restored by Mr. Grinnell and is still in office.

Q. What about inspectors accepting bribes to pass passengers' baggage? A. I think there are not nearly so many cases as has been stated; the matter has been very greative exaggerated; that is my opinion; the general scandal of the payment of gratuities is by no means so extensive as has been charged; id onto mean to say that it does not exist; the newspapers have said that every man who comes to the port pays a bribe to an inspector; that is not so; such cases are very rare; I do not think bribes are given in the cas

orother-in-law of General Spinner; quite a number of men have neen removed for the same offence.

Q. Do you know any cases, aside from ordinary cases of smurging of duttable goods naving come into the port with the knowledge of the officers?

A. that sometimes happens through the collusion or want of vigilance on the part of the officers.

Q. I mean cases of collusion simply? A. That may have nappened, but I Cannot call a case in point to mind; a tempts to smurgie are constantly occorring; we are making seizures every day, and that is the office knowledge I have or the prevaience of smugging; we have one, two or three inspectors, according to the size of the vessel.

Q. During your term at the Custom House have appointments and removals been guided mostly for

Ors. according to the size of the vessel.

Q. During your term at the Custom House have appointments and removals been raised mostly for political causes or from considerations of the public inferest? A. I think that in most cases removals and appointments have been mostly made for some cause other than mere political causes, but a portion of them have been made by reason of poincial influence; I think in appointments some regard has been had to the fitness of the man for office, but, of course, a political recommendation has also been made; removals are not so much guided by political reasons; I think political dictation has been less powerful during the last year than before; I draw a distinction between political dictation and political reasons; in Mr. Grinneit's time the Presidents of ward associations and Congressmen used to dictate the appointment or the displacement of certain men; under Ar. Murphy such dictation has not been permitted to the same extent.

Q. How about pointical assessments? A. So far as my knowledge of them has gone they have been voluntary contributions.

Senator Cassbary—10 you know anything of that? (Handing an extract from the Tribane.)

Witness read:—

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

All persons employed at the Custom House will be required.

All persons employed at the Custom House will be required to pay at the office of the surveyor two per cent upon their salaries for the past year. By order of THOMAS MURPHY,

Collector of the Port of New York.

I say in reply that I say in reply that the circular is a forged one; Mr. Murphy never issued it. Q. Are assessments made? A. No; the money collected for political purposes is freely given; I never knew of any one being removed for not pay-

og. What was the amount collected in your department? A. \$12,000.
Q. From how many men? A. About four hundred.

Q. From how many men? A. About four hundred.
Senator CASSERLY—Oh, about \$30 each. What salary are those men paid? A. \$4 per day.
Senator CASSERLY—So a man gives two per cent on a week's work—gives it freely and goes away happy? A. Yes.
Join G. Dale, agent of the National Steamship Line, examined—I refunded to Mr. A. T Stewart \$2,401 in 1871, general order charges on account of our line; this is but a fragment of what is refunded him by other lines; the money was returned on account of the goods teing thrown into general order stores before the customary forty-eight hours allowed for unloading had elapsed; in cases where the goods would be sent to the stores after that time had expired the expenses would be borne by him.

cases where the goods would be sent to the stores after that time had expired the expenses would be borne by him.

S. C. H. Webb testified as follows:—Am agent of the Hamburg line of steamships; have neard the testimony of agents of other lines and agree with it in every particular.

W. W. Downes testified:—Am engaged in the house of Ciadin & Co.; have known frequent losses of goods to take place in the general order stores: in some instances goods may be taken from the docks, but in most cases the rooberies are committed in the public stores; know that cases have been opened while in the stores, having taken special precautions to hunt the matter up; we import by all lines; do not believe that robberies take place prior to packages leaving the vesse; do not always report losses to the stores, but in most instances do; the charges of the general order stores are in some respects no higher now than they have ever been, but cannot speak with authority on the subject; the cost of taking goods from the other side of the river, where they are now, would not make any difference to us.

The witness here read a communication from the

o'clock last evening. Several communications were received, but the consideration of them was post poned until this morning. ARTRUR G. TILLOTSON TESTIFIED.

l am an importer of telegraph and ratiroad matter; know something of the general order business; believe that the energes are too heavy; in one instance, for the storage and cartage of 3 0 bundles of wire, which remained presented my permit the bill was \$139; I considered he charge exorbitant and protested to Leet & Co., Mr. Cornell and was told the charge would be modified; received a modified bill a few days after whole amount: they retained five coils of wire until the bill was paid, and I have not yet rehe bills of other bonded warehouses is much greater; the charges in other stores of equal security to the Custom House stores of this city are much nore moderate; Mr. Cornell is a gentleman in whom I nad every confidence; he has always treated me with fairness; when I remonstrated with Leet & Co. I was treated with rideness; made application through my broker, who is son of the Deputy Collector, to Leet, and he refused to receive my claim, though charging are times as much as another first class warehouse; I then applied to the Collector for redress, and received it; in one instance I tried to keep my wire out of general order, and sent my bookkeeper to the pier to do so. The inspector told him he would keep the wire out of general order as long as was wisned on consideration of a certain som being paid, which was done, but, notwithstanding, the wire was sent to Leet's stores; was subjected to very heavy charges during the Plussian war on various articles that were imported; have received whole invoices of goods before the charges have been paid; merchants of good standing can receive goods without their having them retained as security for payment; it has been my experience in the city of New York that in order to escape the excessive charges of the general order warehouses an underhand arrangement is frequently made with the inspectors; have talked with other merchants about excessive charges of the general order warehouses an underhand arrangement is frequently made with the inspectors; have talked with other merchants about excessive charges of the merchant arrangements.

Q. Don't you know that corrupting public officers is very demoranzing to the servicer. A. It cannot be any more demoralized than it is at present; all the Custom House officials are corrupt; have made bargains with half a dozen inspectors; did not know until lately that such arrangements were lagging the paced in the same position again would consult my interest first and my conscience afterwards; in any case I believe I would not be doing much wrong.

Senator havand professed against the action of ficials and another to analyze the conduct of officials and another to analyze the conduct of officials and another to analyze the conduc I nad every confidence; he has always treated me with fairness; when I remonstrated with Leet & Co.

by recruminating upon the merchants of New York. It was one thing to investigate the conduct of officials and another to analyze the conduct of the merchants of the city.

Witness continued—Never reported any of the cases of bribes in which I have been concerned to the Custom House; believe it would be well for the merchants to report such crimes; but the provocation, the general order business, should be removed, and then there would be no necessity for bribes; it should not cost any more to have goods stored in general order than in an ordinary bonded warehouse; it is the system to force goods into general order as rapidity as possible; in one instance a lot of wire has been put into general order, though a pernat was sent to the ship to procure it; it was prohounced an imposition by my broker; called on Mr. Cornel, but he was out; the inspector came to me afterwards and assumed the charges binsen; being a personal friend of Mr. Cornell, assisted me as he would not have done others; have not studied how the general order business could be remedied, but think it could be vastly improved if proper means were employed to bring about a reform; have never had any goods piliaged waile lying on the pier under agreement with the inspectors; cannot give you the names of the inspectors whom I have bribed; don't know one from another; mone instance was asked by Mr. Cornell to lurnish the name of an inspector; could not do so; Mr. Cornell toil me he would cut his head of in a minute if he found him.

Senator Pratt—Have you found other Custom House officials corrupt besides the inspectors? A. Well, we had some intercourse with the weighers—(laughter)—in some cases they have served us for a small gratuity; have paid the weigher for a service he failed to periorm.

Q. The object of these gratuities was to make inspectors and weighers do what otherwise they were prombited by law from doing? A. I did not look upon it in that night; they had a certain discretionary power over putting goods in general order; they could detain t

whose for this morning, and electron to this investiunioaded the wire.

Mr. Tillorson—When I first heard of this investigation I determined to give any information I possessed willingly, painful as it is 'o make a public
exposure of my own name and others.
Senator Bayano—The evidence given by the witness is given frankly and without any compalgion. If is doubtful if others will be as frank. He
has proven a clear case of frant and extortion. We
cannot try the inspectors, and they will not give
their evidence willingly under the influence of the
Custom House frowns, which have attended this investigation all through.

Senator Casserly—If the inspectors are summoned nere to-morrow morning it will have the effect of keeping other merchants like Mr. Tillotson back, and thus closing the doors of evidence. Nothing should be done to stifle the investigation.

Q. (To the witness)—What is the name of your broker? A. Leider.

A motion was then made that the Collector should be summoned to spear this morning with the

broker? A. Leider.

A motion was then made that the Collector should be summoned to sppear this morning with the name of the inspector who unloaded the City of Washington containing the Wire. Carried.

Senator Howe (To Witness)—Has the inspector who received your bribe been in your store? A. Yes; he came for his \$25; I reused to pay the hast man who called; he did not fulfil his contract; the name of my bookkeeper who made my payments of this kind is W. H. Elder; it is the general opinion in the city of New York that the general order business bears very severely upon the merchants.

Senator BAYARD—What is your opinion of the willingness of the merchants of New York to testify to the Cusiom House abuses? A. They would be averse to it; my own feeling is one of regret that I had to mention the names of individuals who may get into trouble on account of what I have said; if I had seen the course the inquiry should take I would have been very reflectant to testify; the same feeling would be shared by my brother merchants; my impression is that there is a combination between the Custom House omicias to oring goods into general order, and, as a means of preservation, I took measures to prevent their doing so.

Q. How many merchants have you known to bribe before you did? A. Have known several; cannot give any names; it is several years since I commenced importing: I knew it was a practice of the merchants to give bribes, but I cannot recollect names.

The witness was examined at great length, and at

names.

The witness was examined at great length, and at
the conclusion of his testimony the inquiry was
adjourned until this morning.

THE NEWARK MURDERER.

Botts Becomes Blasphemous—The Legal Hair Upon Which His Friends Hang

A week from to-day is set down for the exe of George Botts, in the jall at Newark. Out of the that he will escape the gallows. There is now no doubt but that a oil has been framed and will be introduced into the Legislature early next week amendatory to the law governing the trial of criminal cases for capital offences. The bill is described as a general one, and not particularly applicable to the case of Botts, but to any one who is or may be in his unfortunate position. The law at present requires that all applications for a term at which the defendant was convicted. The purpose of the bull in question is to enable the Court to hear such application at a sub

THIS AMENDATORY ACT.

The act is entitled a supplement to the act rela tive to criminal proceedings, and provides that "in all cases heretofore tried or hereafter to be tried, when, upon conviction, the penalty is death, that it shall be lawful for the Court belove whom the trial was had, or shall be had, to hear one or more applications for a new trial, as well atter as within the term at which the trial was had. To apply to Botts' case it will have to be passed early next week and approved by the Governor; and then the Court would have to hear and decide upon the application for a new trial before Friday, unless Governor Parker should respite him. Even should the bill passit would be entirely optional with the Court whether a new hearing would be granted. That it would not is considered a loregone conclusion, considering that a monon for a new trial was argued subsequent to conviction, but Judge Depue decided that no cause was shown why a new trial should be granted, and so sentence was passed. Botts' relatives and friends claim to mave new and important evidence. If so, then a new trial may be granted, it is not forgotten, however, that the "new and important evidence' last time consisted of affidavits which the alleged makers pronounced spurious. The oill also led to its said to have been approved of by Governor Randelph, the omer members of the Court of Pardons, and chancellor Zabriskie. This is the very sleader thread upon which be ots and his friends ound their hopes, in the meantime the PREPARATIONS FOR THE EXECUTION next Friday are being made. The sanging will take place in the main han of the pail, and will be conducted with the the utmost privacy. Few persons will be admitted outside of the proper officers and properly accredited press representatives. Botts denies the afficavit made by Mrs. Wilson disclaiming that she was married to alm, in her evidence Mrs. Wilson declared at the trial that she had known botts about seven years. The copy of the minister's record of Botts' marriage to Julia Jenkins bears oate of September, 1864. There is a broad he between them, and the minister's record of Botts' marriage to Julia Jenkins bears oate of September, shall be lawful for the Court before whom the trial was had, or shall be had, to hear one or more appli-

marriage to Julia Jenkins bears date of September, 1864. There is a broad he between them, and the public seem carciess as to where it is really chargeable. In a conversation with Mrs. Whson's father a respectable, comfortably situated workingman of Newark—he stated on Wednesday to the highard peoperer that three or four years ago Botts came to his house in the country and acted very silly about Mrs. Wison, and told him that he was going to secure a divorce for Mrs. Whson from her husband, and that he (Botts) would then marry and take good care of her. The old man does not believe they were married.

BOTTS BLASPHEMES AT A REPORTER.

On Wednesday a Newark local reporter, representing a paper which had described Botts as an illinosting lelow, called at the jail and sought to interview the murderer. The latter waxed exceedingly wroth and tore out at the interviewer at a flererate. He declared, it is said, that were ne outside his cell bars he would "knock the damned bead off" the reporter. The latter lost no time in leaving the County Jail behind him.

MORE ABOUT DR. VERNON.

169 EAST EIGHTY-FIRST STREET, NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, Jan. 17—A. M. TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

In detecting and caging the rascal Vernon you have done a good service to all females who advertise in the Herald. You and the officers will do a still better one if you succeed in getting him "retired" for a year or two. One such villain as he does more harm to the Herald to an a dozen competing newspapers. What virtuous woman, after receiving one of vermon's disgusting letters, will lay nerself liable to a repetition of them? I know of at least three ladies who have been thus insuited by him and I am bout to say that air those who appeared vesteriay in Court are his victims and cound produce his letters and give other most damaing evidence against him. I suggest, when he is wied, that those ladies be interviewed and induced to give their evidence against him. His object is simply a sensual one, he has long pursued it, and I am sorry to say there are scores of similar chaps operating through your columns, fiving in this city and over in Brookini. A call in the Herald log-letters and other evidence of this would develop a state of facts you little dream of. Don't let up on the villaim nor permit officers to get the corrupting scoundred of, thus wronging the public and cheating Justice, as they often have done. Yours truly, A. J. W. tise in the HERALD. You and the outcers will do a

CAPTURE OF BOLD RIVER THIEVES.

Early yesterday forenoon two river thieves landed from a small boat at the foot of North Lighth street, Williamsburg, where a large quantity of pig fron, belonging to William Tutte, was awaiting transportation. One of the thieves presented a pistor to portation. One of the thieves presented a pistol to the head of the watchman employed there, while the other put on board the boat about six hundred pounds of the iron. The thieves then ju aped on board their boat and rowed rapidly across the river. On their departure the terrified watchman notified officers Keily and Cleary, of the Fath precinct, of the audacious outrage, and these odicers crossed in a Houston street ferryboat in pursuit of the thieves and succeeded in catening them in a junk shop near stanton street, while they were weigning the iron. On being taken to the station house in Fourth street they gave the names of James Merrick and Joseph cornell, aged respectively twenty-three years. They will have a hearing before Justice Voornies this morning.

CAPTURE OF TWO WOMEN WITH \$1,000 WORTH OF JEWELRY.

Elizabeth Carpenter, adas Brandt, and Minnie Altison were arrested by Detective Riggs, last even-Altison were arrested by Detective Riggs, last evening, charged with stealing five watches, gold
chains, shirt studs and other articles of jewelry,
vained in all at \$1,000, from Charles Brandt,
residing at the corner of Fifth avenue and
Eleventh street, Gowanus. Miss Carpenter claimed
that she has supported and lived with Brandt for
years past, and that the property beinged to her.
Brandt says it does not, and, further, that Lizzle is
not his wife. He is now employed as a conductor
on the Concy Island Railroad, and says he got the
property from a brother, who is in the jewelry business in Savanaab. The accused were held toanswer.